against the Mail Road and Benajhabar Telephone exchanges of Kanpur Telephones during the last nine months or so;

(c) if so, what is the number of the subscribers' bills which were corrected; and

(d) what further action is being proposed to be taken to stop pilferage at various ends and to strengthen the Department's own vigilance wing?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) The detailed information has been called for from the concerned unit and will be placed on the Table of the House as early as possible.

STD Facility in Bihar Towns/Cities

628. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of towns/cities in Bihar which are likely to be provided with STD facility as on the 31st December, 1987; and

(b) the names of towns/cities in Bihar which are likely to be provided with STD facility during the year 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The names of towns/cities in Bihar which have been provided with STD facility as on 31-12-87 are:—

1. Arrah	2. Bettiah
3. Bokaro	4. Chhapra
5. Darbhanga (Lahiriasarai)	6. Dalmianagar
7. Daltonganj	8. Forbesganj
9. Gaya.	10. Dhanbad
11 Hazaribagh	12. Jameshedpur
13. Katihar	14. Monghyr
15. Motihari	16. Muzaffarpur
17. Patna	18. Ranchi (Dhurwa)
19. Sasaram	20. Siwan
21. Samastipur	

(b) The names of towns/cities in Bihar which have been planned to be provided with STD facility during the year 1987-88 (after 31-12-1987):

1. Bhagalpur	2. Chaibasa
3. Sindri	

1988-89

1. Begusarai	2. Biharshrif
3. Deogarh	4. Dumka
5. Giridih	6. Hajipur
7. Madhubani	8. Nawadah
9. Purnea	

Out of Court Settlement in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy Cases

629. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment consider it desirable to an out-of-court settlement of the compensation cases of the Union Carbide gas leakage victims at Bhopal

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) at what stage does the case rest now; and

(d) what further steps Government propose to take in that regard?